SYC SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026-27

1 RULES

1.1 All races will be sailed under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028. Additional Instructions for Special and Pursuit Races may be made.

1.2 Between the hours of sunset and sunrise yachts must display the correct navigation lights.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

The Race Officer may make oral changes to the sailing instructions on the water by VHF, these may overrule any written instructions on the day to allow for weather variations.

3 ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY FORMS

3.1 SYC MEMBERS

Yacht owners who are SYC Sailing Members for the year shall complete one Entry form for the season before their first race. (SI 18.1.4). Additional Entry Fees and/or Forms may be required for Offshore and Special Races. The Sailing Season shall be from the 6th April 2026 to 31st March 2027. Completion of the Entry Form implies acceptance of Minimum Safety requirements and responsibilities detailed in Section 18.

3.2 VISITORS

Visiting yachts may compete in OPEN Events only and must deliver to the Race Officer a SYC Entry Form together with any Race Fee prior to the Preparatory Signal of the race they wish to enter. They must also comply with SYC minimum requirements.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 RACE STATION and Signals made ashore.

All Starting light, sound and flag signals shall be made from the Starting Station.

4.2 RACING SIGNALS - Modifies RRS Race Signals

4.2.1 Starts will be controlled by lights, see additional starting information Attachment A3.

4.2.2 Courses will be signalled by a board will be displayed station designating course letter.

4.2.3 An additional red or green board will be displayed designating which side to leave marks. Red for port, green for starboard. Note Attachment A1, where marks are to be left to different sides no board will be displayed.

4.3 RACE OFFICER (RO)

4.3.1 The Senior RO will be the Person(s) designated for each race on the list on the Club Notice Board or their agreed deputy.

5 RATINGS

5.1 CURRENT RATINGS

All yachts must hold a current RYA YTC Rating. Yachts obtaining their rating by applying to the RYA/RORC following the procedures detailed at https://rorcrating.com/ryaytc.

6 CLASSES & CLASS FLAGS

The following classes will be raced in 2026.

CLASS	CLASS FLAG	START LIGHT
1 YTC A	IC Numeral 1	YELLOW
2 YTC B	IC Numeral 2	GREEN
3 YTC Club	IC Numeral 3	RED

Yachts will race in the specific classes allocated on the 2026 S.Y.C. Handicap Sheet. Classes to be at the discretion of the Sailing Committee. *Classes may be separated into divisions if sufficient entries. Racing will be using RYA YTC Handicaps.

One design yachts must comply fully with their class rules including crew limits.

7 RACING AREAS

Racing will be in the North and South Bays. Addendum A2 shows the location of racing areas.

8 COURSES

8.1 Attachment A1 details the courses.

9 MARKS

Attachment A2 details the marks.

11 STARTS

The first class will start at the time indicated on the SYC Racing Programme.

11.1 STARTING LINE

A Transit of the diamond on the Club Starting Station and the diamond on the outer pier in line.

11.1.1 LIMIT MARKS

The line will be limited by (when laid) the No. 2 Buoy Outer Distance Mark (ODM) and the No1 Buoy the Inner Distance Mark (IDM) these are starting marks and boats shall pass between them or on their relevant required side. Competitors shall not devise means whereby although keeping strictly to the rules they avoid the spirit of these instructions and shall not sail outside this gate limit before crossing the start line.

See Attachment A3 for further information.

11.2 STARTING SIGNALS

11.2.1 STARTING SIGNALS - amends RRS 26

Yachts will start in succession in the order of Classes as defined in SI 6 and Attachment 4.

11.2.1 INDIVIDUAL RECALLS - Modifies RRS 29.1

When at her Start a yacht fails to comply with RRS 29.1, a second horn will be sounded and a flashing light will be shown below the starting signals for three minutes. Code flag 'X' will not be flown.

11.5 GENERAL RECALLS - Modifies RRS 29.2

11.5.1 General Recall shall be signalled by two additional horns and flashing light. There may be an announcement by VHF, classes will restart using recall sequence detailed in Attachment A4.

11.6 VHF RADIO

11.6.1 The Race Station will, when possible, transmit on Channel 'M'/37 after the Warning and Preparatory signals of the first Start, giving the Course.

11.6.2 The Race Station may, when possible, also transmit recalls, course shortening, postponement, cancellation and abandonment.

11.6.3 These transmissions are secondary to the definitive standard visual and sound signals. Except in an emergency no yacht will transmit on this frequency during starting procedures. Shortened course instruction for individual classes may be announced by VHF only under flag “S”. Flag “S” may be replaced by a board “S”.

11.6.4 All yachts shall declare their intention to race and number of crew via VHF prior to the 10 minute signal. NOTE The Race Station WILL NOT REPLY to transmissions made after the 10 minute signals unless providing information to the whole fleet or in case of emergency. VHF to remain on for the duration of the race and boats shall keep a listening watch.

11.6.5 Yachts to monitor CH16 & M1 (Ch37) after starting in case of emergency broadcasts.

11.7 EARLIER STARTS

Yachts whose Preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all yachts racing.

11.7.1 Any yacht motoring after their preparatory signal and before their start, shall stop their engine and complete a two-turns penalty before starting. For pursuit races this is 5 minutes before their start time.

11.8 NUMBER OF STARTERS

A minimum of two starters are required to constitute a race and qualify for a trophy.

11.8.1 When only one yacht in a class wishes to race they may do so in the class as detailed in 11.8.3. Points will be awarded based on their average points in that series excluding DNC. Penalties as detailed in 14.1 shall be applied to this average.

11.8.2 A single yacht sailing will be eligible for a class flag if they complete the course.

11.8.3 Single Class 1 yacht to start with Class 2, single Class 2 yacht to start with class 1, Single class 3 yacht to start with class 2.

13 FINISHING

13.1 FINISH LINE

13.1.1 The Finishing Line for bay races will be the transit of the Diamond on the Race Station and the ODM. For coastal races when taking your own time the line shall be a transit of the

diamond on the Club Starting Station and the diamond on the outer pier in line, within the outer pier and the ODM. For all races if the ODM is not laid or missing then competitors must finish within 100 meters of the outer pier using the diamonds in transit.

13.1.2 The finish line is designated as a continued obstruction unless finishing or completing a lap.

13.2 FINISH SIGNALS

13.2.1 A horn and a light may be given to each yacht that crosses the finishing line from the course side.

13.3 Competitors in last place in One design and pursuit races need not finish when all other competitors have finished and shall be scored as if they had finished.

14 PENALTIES

14.1 RRS 44.1 & 44.2 shall apply. (Two-turns penalty to exonerate infringement of a rule in Part 2 of the RRS)

15 TIME LIMITS

15.1 The Bay Race Time Limit for all yachts will be 1 hour 30 minutes after High Water of the tide on which the race is sailed or the published sunset time, whichever is the earlier, which will be extended by 30 minutes in daylight, or 15 minutes after sunset, if a yacht in any fleet finishes within the time limit.

15.1.1 Should all yachts **in a class** not finish by being out-of-time, the time of the last passing of the Start-Finish line will be taken as the End-of-Race. Any yacht retiring after this time shall be classified as a finisher.

15.2 The Midweek Pursuit Race Time Limit will be the earlier of 2.5 hrs after the Starting Signal or 2 hrs after High Water or sunset + 15 minutes, no extension.

15.3 Unless specified in other Instructions, the Time Limit for Coastal Series Races will 2000 hrs, which will be extended by 30 minutes if any yacht finishes within the time limit. Yachts to record their own finishing time.

15.3.1 Should all yachts not be able to finish within the time limit, the time of passing the last mark will be taken as the End-of-Race. Any yacht retiring after this time shall be classified as a finisher. Yachts should record their time rounding each mark

16 PROTESTS

Protests shall be in writing and given to the Race Officer or Race Committee within two hours of the last boat finishing. Boats should Notify the Race Office of intention to protest ASAP after finishing.

16.1 Protests will be heard by the Protest Committee in accordance with Part 5 of RRS.

16.2 The Exoneration Penalty [and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures] of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the official notice board for details. Penalty to be 30% or race score, minimum one place, maximum last place.

17 SCORING

17.1 SCORING SYSTEM - Modifies RRS Appendix A

17.1.1 The Low Point System as described in RRS Appendix A, and A8 for a long series, will be used.

17.2 DISCARDS

For any series of races 4-6 Races complete - 1 discard, 7-8 - 2 discards, 9+ - 3 discards.

17.3 A5.3 shall apply. Boats that come to the starting area but do not finish (RET and DNF) will be scored one (1) more than the number of boats that finished. A boat scored DNS will be scored one (1) more than the number of competitors in that series. A boat scored DSQ / DNE will be scored one (1) more than starters and not allowed to discard that race.

18 SAFETY

18.1.1 Only yachts complying with SYC SIs 18, 20 & 30 are eligible to compete. (Minimum Safety requirements and responsibilities) Entries will not be accepted from any yacht not agreeing to and fully complying with these requirements.

18.1.2 Bay Races: All yachts shall conform to WS Offshore Special Regulations Appendix B.

Additionally they shall also carry a VHF radio, first aid kit and functioning navigation lights.

Attachment A5 lists recommended additional items.

18.1.3 Coastal Races: All yachts shall conform to WS Offshore Special Regulations Category 4.

18.2 RETIREMENT

18.2.1 Bay Races: Any Yacht "Retiring" during the race MUST immediately inform the race station. And, where possible, fly their ensign to signal their status to other competitors. If the Race Station cannot receive the transmission due to the Castle Headland the Yacht should keep trying until the Race Station acknowledges.

18.2.2 Coastal Races: Any Yacht "Retiring" during the race must inform the rest of the racing fleet, stating where they are retiring to - even if they are retiring to Scarborough. And, where possible, fly their ensign to signal their status to other competitors.

18.2.3 Any yacht wishing to retire after finishing shall report this at once to the Race Officer.

18.2.4 Any yacht flying an ensign shall be classed as not racing and will not feature in the results

18.3 PERSONAL BUOYANCY

Lifejackets as specified in SYC Minimum Requirements (not buoyancy aids) are to be worn for all races between 1/10/26 and 31/3/27, on yachts with no guard rails for all coastal races, also for all yachts when the 'Y' flag is flown and/or when race officer states in special instructions and/or via VHF, this changes RRS rule 40.1 & 40.2.

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a member of the sailing committee or their representative to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection. Spot checks WILL be carried out and any yacht found racing and not complying will be penalised and may be disqualified.

29 Risk Statement

RRS Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.

b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.

c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission.

d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.

e) The provision of a race management team and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.

f) They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.

30 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

31 The penalty for breaking rule 47, Trash Disposal, is at the discretion of the protest committee (DPI) and may be less than disqualification.

32 Changing RRS 52 Autohelms may be used on coastal races only if sailing single or two handed. See Attachment A4 - 20